

Trung Nguyen
Harvard University
11 Soldiers Field Park APT 11D
Boston, MA 02163

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request EPA-2023-002699

Dear Trung Nguyen:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request of February 27, 2023, regarding organization names (who owns the facility) linked to each facility ID, current and historical, and the year(s) or dates for which each link applies back to the early 2000s.

This report has been generated and is available for download:
https://ordsext.epa.gov/FLA/www3/foia_05152023.zip. This link was also provided to you via email on May 15, 2023.

Several notes to assist in understanding the information in the files:

Facility_name file notes:

- This file is populated from existing FRS facility data and the data in FRS logging/historical tables.
- FRS Registry IDs can be merged/archived into other registry IDs, deleted, or can have incorrect data linked to it causing strange values in the history tables. It is possible to find registry IDs that no longer exist in FRS, aren't in FRS logging data or were linked to incorrect facilities which could cause some confusion.
- FRS didn't specifically record what fields are changed in FRS logging tables until very recently. It just keeps a copy of what the record looked like before it was updated and saves this copy of the record to our history table no matter what changes so there's a chance the facility name wasn't actually updated for each entry. This is what will lead to a lot of data and a lot of duplicates to sift through.
- The DATE_FIELD means a few different things in this file. If the DATE_FIELD = 12-MAY-23 then it means it's the current value in FRS as of May 12th. If it's a different date value, then it means it's the day the logging record was recorded.

For example, if you have these three examples in the facility spreadsheet:

registry_id = 123; name= FACILITY ABC; DATE_FIELD= 26-OCT-17
registry_id = 123; name= FACILITY DEF; DATE_FIELD= 05-OCT-17
registry_id = 123; name= FACILITY GHI; DATE_FIELD= 01-OCT-17

The top record means "FACILITY ABC" is the current name in FRS

The second record means "FACILITY DEF" was the value until 05-OCT-17 when it was replaced by "FACILITY ABC"

The third record means "FACILITY GHI" was the value until 01-OCT-17 when it was replaced by "FACILITY DEF"

Org_name file notes:

- Use the registry ID field in this file to link to the facility file. There can be multiple organizations per facility and multiple facilities per organization.
- The DATE_FIELD in this file follows the same logic described with the facility section.
- The affiliation_type field is included to indicate what type of organization this is to the facility to add more context to the data. The organization affiliation/name data is not well populated for most of the older records.

One final note, these files are both very large and probably freeze your computer if you try to load them in your local excel/notepad.

You may appeal this response by email at hq.foia@epa.gov, or by mail to the National Freedom of Information Office, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2822T), Washington, DC 20460 (U.S. Postal Service Only). Only items mailed through the United States Postal Service may be delivered to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. If you are submitting your appeal via hand delivery, courier service, or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 6416J, Washington, DC 20004. Your appeal must be made in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 pm EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Additionally, you may seek resolution services from EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at hq.foia@epa.gov or (202)566-1667, or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8610 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail, ogis@nara.gov; telephone, 202-741-5770 or 1-877-684-6448; and facsimile, 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

Shane Knipschild, Acting Director
Information Access and Analytics Services Division
Office of Information Management